



City of Spirit Lake Backflow Program

The City of Spirit Lake manages and maintains our backflow prevention program in accordance with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality regulations. The city has a responsibility to prevent potential contamination from entering the water system. One way we achieve this is addressed through the city backflow prevention program.

The city's water system is designed so water flows in one direction from the well sites to the customer. Backflow happens in two ways: they are either ***siphoned*** into the water system or ***pressured*** into the water system. When a backflow occurs, contamination can enter the water system. Working backflow prevention assemblies help prevent contamination from entering the system.

What is the customer's responsibility?

Annual testing and maintaining of all backflow assemblies is required. Lawn sprinkler systems must be tested when the system is recharged (turned on) and recorded at City Hall within ***5 days of anniversary of last inspection and/or prior to June 30th***. The system doesn't have to be operating by June 30th, but a ***satisfactory backflow test must be submitted to the city.***

Types of backflow assemblies/devices permitted in the City of Spirit Lake

- **PVB-** Pressure Vacuum Breaker
- **AVB-** Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker (no shut off-valves downstream)
- **RP-** Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention Device
- **Double Check Valve**

What can the customer do to prevent backflow situations?

- Do not submerge hoses or place them where they could become submerged.
- Use hose bib vacuum breakers on fixtures (hose connections, laundry room and outside faucets/spigots.)
- Install an approved backflow prevention assembly on lawn irrigation, fire sprinkler systems and all commercial buildings need a RP device installed.
- All installation or repair work done to backflow assemblies (and a copy of a satisfactory test) must be recorded at City Hall by 3pm the following workday. Failure to do so may result in discontinuation of water service until records are received by City Hall.

The most common backflow event is caused by the ordinary garden hose. It can be easily connected to the potable water supply and used for a variety of potentially dangerous applications.

What steps are the city taking to verify the customer has met their responsibilities?

- The city is tracking assemblies and testing compliance.
- ***A reminder notice will be sent on all city utility bills for the April 1st billing.*** All accounts within city limits that have backflow assemblies present on their property are to adhere to annual testing.
- Annual test results are due within 5 days of 1 year anniversary of previous test and/or June 30th for city review. Any assemblies not tested in the city may have water service terminated until assembly is tested and found to be in working order.

Who do I hire for testing my assembly?

Testing of all backflow assemblies by a certified tester is required by the State of Idaho and the city. The city maintains a list of certified testers who have complied with the State of Idaho and city requirements. This list is on our website, or you may pick up a copy at City Hall. ***Using a certified tester not on our list may result in an invalid test.***

When looking to hire a certified tester, a few good questions to ask are:

- Are you on the City of Spirit Lake certified testers list?
- Do you submit test reports promptly to the water provider?
- Do you provide me a copy of the test report and tag assembly?
- If the assembly fails its initial test, do you clean the assembly and re-test immediately?
- If cleaning does not resolve failure, do you have the tools and parts on hand to perform repairs or will you walk away?

We appreciate our customers having the assemblies tested in a timely manner. We work hard every day to provide you with good safe drinking water. We appreciate your cooperation in preventing contamination of your water.